

Language and humor: Arabic-English translation errors in bilingual memes

Muassomah*, Penny Respati Yurisa, Arief Rahman Hakim

Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang, Jl. Gajayana No.50, Malang, Indonesia

Article History

Submitted date:
2025-01-06
Accepted date:
2025-04-31
Published date:
2025-05-04

Keywords:

Arabic-English;
bilingual; humor;
memes; translation
error

Abstract

Translation errors are a linguistic phenomenon that often generate humor, particularly when they occur between two distinct cultures. The humor that emerges from these errors reflects the crucial role of cultural differences in shaping the meaning of a text. This study aims to analyze translation errors in the landscape of bilingual information, specifically in the form of memes, and to explore the translation errors that result in humor. This study employed a qualitative approach, utilizing memes as the data source from websites that contain Arabic-English bilingual information. The data were analyzed using error analysis and through informative discourse analysis. The research findings show that bilingual information memes exhibit translation errors, including literal translation errors, loss of context and meaning, misinterpretation, and a lack of contextual explanation. This study concludes that the translation errors that occur give rise to a sense of humor.

Kata Kunci:

Arab-Inggris;
bilingual; humor;
kesalahan terjemah;
meme

Abstrak

Bahasa dan humor: Kesalahan terjemah Arab-Inggris dalam meme bilingual

Kesalahan penerjemahan merupakan fenomena linguistik yang sering kali menghasilkan humor, terutama ketika terjadi antara dua budaya yang berbeda. Humor yang muncul dari kesalahan ini mencerminkan peran krusial perbedaan budaya dalam membentuk makna suatu teks. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis kesalahan penerjemahan dalam lanskap informasi bilingual dalam bentuk meme, serta mengeksplorasi kesalahan penerjemahan yang memicu efek humor. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif dengan sumber data berupa meme dari situs web yang memuat informasi bilingual dalam bahasa Arab-Inggris. Data dianalisis menggunakan analisis kesalahan serta analisis wacana informatif. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa meme informasi bilingual mengalami berbagai kesalahan penerjemahan, yaitu kesalahan terjemahan literal, hilangnya konteks dan makna, salah tafsir, serta kurangnya penjelasan kontekstual. Penelitian ini menyimpulkan bahwa kesalahan penerjemahan yang terjadi dapat memunculkan efek humor, yang menyoroti keterkaitan antara aspek linguistik dan budaya dalam komunikasi lintas bahasa.

* Corresponding author:
muassomah@bsa.uin-malang.ac.id

1 Introduction

In translation, challenges often arise that are not only related to language differences but also to cultural differences (Diana Haokip, 2021). When a text is translated from Arabic to English, there are many aspects that may be difficult to maintain, especially when it comes to cultural nuances and local context (Piotrowski & Sadowska-Dobrowolska, 2023). One of its frequent effects is unintentional humor due to translation misunderstandings. This creates a unique phenomenon where something that is taken seriously in one culture can turn funny in another language (Alnusairat & Jaganathan, 2022). The difference in linguistic structure between Arabic and English also plays a role in translation failure. Arabic, with its rich and complex grammar, has many idioms and expressions that have no direct equivalent in English. Thus, translations that cannot capture the true essence of the expressions often suffer from changes in meaning and create confusion or even unexpected comedy (Xia et al., 2023).

Translation is a complex process that involves transferring meaning from one language to another while taking into account the linguistic and cultural nuances of both the source and target languages (Elhadary, 2023). Translation can also be defined as the process of transferring meaning from one language (the source language) to another language (the target language) with the aim of retaining the intended message, ideas, and nuances in the original context (Weissbort & Eysteinnsson, 2023). Translation is an interpreter's activity that involves transferring messages stored in linguistic form for a specific purpose by considering various aspects, especially culture (related to acceptability) (Plyth, 2020). This process involves not only the substitution of words but also a deep understanding of the linguistic structures, idioms, and cultural norms of both languages. A good translation takes into account cultural differences, contextual meanings, and language styles to ensure that the translated message remains faithful to the original intent and can be understood by the reader or listener in the target language (Li & Weng, 2023). This skill requires a deep understanding of both languages, as well as the ability to interpret meanings that extend beyond mere words (Saifudin, 2018).

Cultural references play an important role in translation, as speaking cultures have different backgrounds (Elhadary, 2023). Each language develops in a unique social, historical, and geographical context, which affects the way people express their ideas, emotions, and values (Praet & Verhelst, 2020a). These differences are often reflected in idioms, symbols, and cultural references that cannot always be directly translated (Muassomah, 2024). Therefore, translators must understand not only the source language and the target language but also the underlying cultural background of both to maintain the accuracy of meaning as well as contextual relevance (Praet & Verhelst, 2020b). Without considering these cultural factors, translation can be imprecise, even potentially causing misunderstandings.

Humor in translation is a phenomenon in which humorous elements emerge as a result of language transfer that does not always match the cultural context, idioms, or intended meaning in the source language (Abu-Rayyash, 2024). Humor can arise due to translation errors, especially when translators try to translate literally without paying attention to cultural nuances or typical colloquial usage (Tee et al., 2022a). This often happens when idioms or expressions that have specific meanings in one language are translated into another without taking into account the context, resulting in strange or unexpected meanings (Zabalbeascoa, 2005). In addition, differences in language structure and ways of thinking between two cultures can create situations of unintentional humor in the translation process (Al-Ezzi & Al-Qudah, 2024).

In some cases, translation failure can be humorous, mainly when the literal meaning of the translation produces strange or unexpected connotations (Lesmana, 2021). This occurs because of differences in language structure and culture that the translator is unable to fully bridge. For example, idiomatic expressions in one language often have no direct equivalent in another language, so the



literal translation can sound silly or absurd (Chiaro, 2018). Therefore, translation errors that do not consider cultural and linguistic nuances often result in unintentional humor. To avoid these failures, translators must have a deep understanding of both languages and cultures, as well as the ability to correctly interpret the context and purpose of communication.

Error analysis is an approach in language study that focuses on identifying, classifying, and understanding errors made by second or foreign language learners (Schachter, 1974). Translation errors reflect either the translator's lack of knowledge of the target language rules or their misunderstanding of the meaning in the source language (Azevedo & Corder, 1983). Corder emphasizes that error analysis is essential for uncovering the translator's thought processes and the difficulties they encounter in capturing and conveying meaning (Corder, 1975a). Rod Ellis further asserts that translation errors often indicate the stage of a translator's competence development in mastering both languages, as well as the strategies they employ (Ellis, 2009). For Ellis, error analysis in translation helps to understand how a translator's interlanguage functions, particularly when they attempt to reconcile the structural differences between the source and target languages. According to Corder, error analysis consists of five stages: data collection, error identification, error classification, error explanation, and error evaluation (Corder, 1975b).

Aufa, in his research, shows that there are grammatical and lexical errors (Aufa & Syarif, 2020). The grammatical errors include omission, over-inclusion, wrong word choice, and wrong word placement. Some ellipsis was also detected. In line with Youcef's findings, which explain participants' inability to translate technical terms that are almost synonymous, grammatical problems, and stylistic problems at both the lexical and sentence levels (Youcef et al., 2024a). In the case of transliteration, there is often inconsistency in translating the names of all branches of the store, such as word order in compound words and vowels, diphthongs, and consonants (Al-Jarf, 2024). The findings of (Alanazi, 2024) showed that EFL Arabic learners scored higher when they were asked to translate into their colloquial Arabic (CA) than into Modern Standard Arabic (MSA). However, and due to the lack of dictionaries, textbooks and materials written in CA, Arabic EFL learners show low performance in translating CA texts into English (Alanazi, 2024). This study revealed that the most frequently used strategy was total equivalence/literal translation (Kayed, 2024).

Existing research related to translation errors can be mapped into 3 trends. First, studies that focus on mapping the translation errors made (Ahmad et al., 2023a; Chaisang & Sriwantaneeyakul, 2023; Conde, 2013; Vâlcea, 2020). (Ahmad et al., 2023) showed that students experienced errors in translation collocation, which includes lexical and grammatical collocation. In line with (Widya Dara Anindya & Aqiana Eka Yonatri, 2022) explained that there are 14 types of errors found, namely: literalness, usage, punctuation, terminology, verb form, grammar, capitalization, parts of speech, syntax, style, register, omission, cohesion, and ambiguity. The most common errors are grammatical errors and word omissions (Dewi, 2017). Second, studies that look at the factors of translation errors (Erika Sinambela, Roswani Siregar, Hotnida I., Simanjuntak & Manurungl, 2024) (Bin-Hariz, 2023; El Alaoui & Jalid, 2023; Kabakci et al., 2022). (El Alaoui & Jalid, 2023) reveal that sports metaphors in English pose metaphorical and cultural threats to Arabic translators, who may be tempted to translate them literally if they fail to understand their hidden meanings. Most translators ignore the pronunciation similarities between Arabic and English due to the translator's ignorance of Qur'anic exegesis (Bin-Hariz, 2023b). Third, studies that focus on the impact of errors (Araghi et al., 2024a; Bâk, 2023; Graff, 2021; Nasser, 2023). Elhadary's study emphasizes that differences in worldview and cultural norms affect language use (Elhadary, 2023). Correspondingly (Araghi et al., 2024b) explains that international businesses must have adequate language translation strategies to overcome translation difficulties arising from the presence of ambiguous words, even when it involves cross-border transfer of highly codified knowledge such as patents.

This study aims to explore the impact of Arabic-English translations on memes containing bilingual information discourse on websites by evaluating how Arabic-English or English-Arabic translations have experienced failures that result in humorous and humorous outcomes. In addition, this study reveals how translation errors, both in word choice and sentence structure, can create unexpected and intriguing situations. This phenomenon occurs because the translation is done literally and does not take the context of the source language sentence into account. Through this research, it is hoped that common patterns in humorous translation failures can be found.

This study argues that in translating language, it is not only important to pay attention to the source and destination languages but, most importantly, to pay attention to the contextual meaning of the two languages. The occurrence of humor in translation is due to the translator's inaccuracy and the mismatch between literal meaning and contextual meaning, where a phrase or expression in one language may have a different connotation or be contextual meaning completely unknown in another language. This mismatch often creates comical misunderstandings, as translators fail to capture the contextual meaning that accompanies a term. Contextual meaning is a key element in producing an accurate translation, and neglecting it can result in unexpected yet amusing translation errors.

2 Methods

This study employs a qualitative method with an error analysis approach and informative discourse analysis to examine translation errors in Arabic-English bilingual memes that contribute to humor. The unit of analysis in this study focuses on Arabic-English mistranslations in bilingual memes related to informative discourse obtained from various websites. In addition, this study specializes in translation errors that generate humor, which often occur due to literal translation or context mismatch between the source and target languages. These errors are interesting to analyze because, besides having an impact on consumers' perception of the product or service offered, they also show how literal errors (such as vocabulary and spelling) can create unintended meanings.

The corpus of this study is memes containing Arabic-English informative discourse on several websites. The samples that became the unit of analysis in this study include memes containing trade information, parking signs, and road signs. The site was selected because it features several memes that contain humor, including Arabic-English bilingual information. In addition, the site was also chosen based on its significant multilingual representation between Arabic and English, allowing the researcher to explore how these two languages interact with each other in an informational context. There are 41 bilingual (Arabic-English) memes about informative discourse that reflect translation failures. As shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Types of Arabic-English translation errors

| Number | Type of Translation Error | Total | Percentage |
|--------|--------------------------------|-------|------------|
| 1 | Literal translation error | 18 | 44.00 |
| 2 | Loss of context and meaning | 9 | 22.00 |
| 3 | Noun misinterpretation | 8 | 19.00 |
| 4 | Lack of contextual explanation | 6 | 15.00 |
| Total | | 41 | 100.00 |

The four types of translation errors identified in this study are based on the theory of Mildred L. Larson (Larson, 1998); (Verity & Larson, 1986). These four types of errors include first, Literal Translation Error, which occurs when translators translate word by word without considering the overall meaning. Second, Loss of Context and Meaning, which aligns with Larson's concept of 'meaning loss'—a situation where meaning is not conveyed effectively due to a lack of contextual understanding. Third, Misinterpretation of Nouns can be related to errors in selecting the appropriate equivalent, such as homonyms or words with multiple meanings. Fourth is lack of Contextual



Clarification, corresponding to the concept of 'ambiguity in translation,' where the translated text remains unclear due to the absence of necessary adjustments or additional information required for a specific context.

The data in this study were collected through observation, reading, and note-taking techniques. Observation is done by directly observing the object of research in the form of memes containing informative discourse in Arabic-English to find the phenomenon of translation failure that occurs. The reading technique was applied by examining the various Arabic-English writings contained in the memes carefully and thoroughly. Meanwhile, the note-taking technique was used to record important findings during the observation and reading process, which were then further analyzed to obtain a comprehensive picture of the topic under study. The combination of these three techniques is expected to provide in-depth and accurate data.

The collected data were then subjected to linguistic analysis, discourse analysis and humor. Linguistic analysis is carried out by analyzing language errors in translation and determining the type of error of each data. Furthermore, mapping and grouping the data based on Arabic-English translation errors. Informative discourse analysis, as expressed by (Ward & Birner, 2008) states that "informative discourse is a type of discourse that is basically related to the delivery of information, facts or news". That is to analyze the informative discourse that exists in each meme collected. Thus, the object of research is explored to determine its language errors and then classified according to the form and theme of the discourse.

3 Findings

After the data collection was carried out, 41 memes about informative wacana occurred Arabic-English translation errors that gave rise to humor, the distribution of the number of each type of error can be seen in Figure 1 below.

Figure 1. Type of translation error

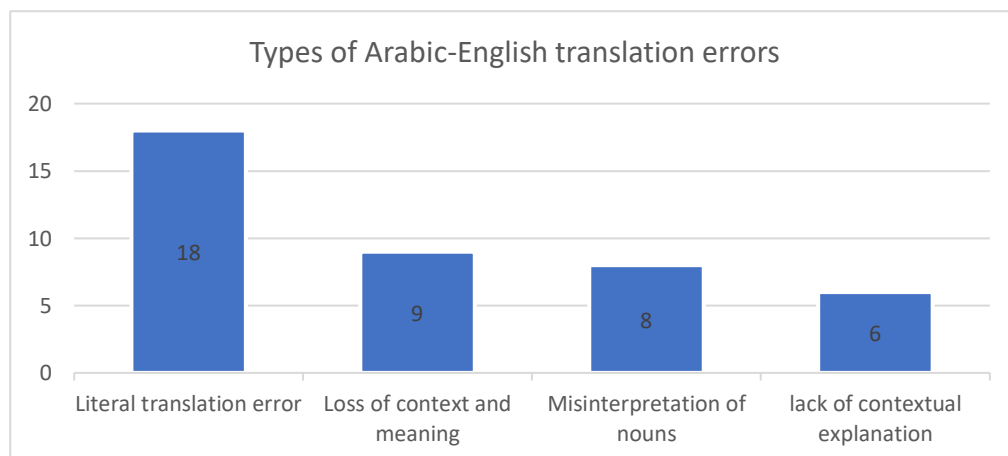


Figure 1 explains that there are 4 types of Arabic-English translation errors from 41 informative discourse data in internet memes. Of the 4 types, literal error is the most dominant error, which reaches 18 data. While the least number of errors is in the type of lack of contextual explanation, which amounts to 6 data. While the loss of context and meaning error reaches 9 data, and there are 8 data of interpretation errors. The following is a sample of translation errors in informative discourse memes that generate humor.

Figure 2 shows a picture of a supermarket in Saudi Arabia, the picture intends to inform that the fruit displayed below the landscape are dates from Jordan. The word "Dates", which means dates in English as in the picture below it, translates to (تواريخ)/*tawarikh*/, the plural of the Arabic word

/taarikh/, which is a date or calendar. The information in figure 1 translates to "التواريخ الأردن," which literally means "Jordanian calendar." As a result, when translated back into English, the phrase becomes "DATES Jordan," which actually refers to "calendars" (dates) instead of the actual dates intended. This error occurs because in English, the word "dates" has a double meaning, which can mean dates or dates, depending on the context. In this case, the context was not properly understood by the translator, resulting in a misleading translation.

Figure 2

<https://ansam518.wordpress.com/2011/05/14/lost-in-translation-14/>



In both Arabic and English, this translation fails to provide consumers with the correct information about the product. Consumers who do not understand the context of the information are likely to feel confused, as the translated information does not refer to dates at all, but rather to "calendars" or "dates." This failure shows how important it is to contextual meanings in translation, especially when dealing with words that have multiple meanings. This kind of mistake can ruin communication and lead to a loss of meaning, which in turn has the potential to harm the parties involved, including businesses trying to provide clear information to their consumers.

Figure 3

<https://www.boredpanda.com/translation-fails/>



The meme in Figure 3 reflects a translation error in the category of misinterpretation of nouns. The phrase "بيع الدواجن المذبوحة" /bai' al-dawaajin al-madzbuha/ which means the sale of slaughtered poultry. That is, the poultry is slaughtered for consumption as food. This sentence describes the sale

of poultry that has been prepared for the market after going through the correct slaughter process and in accordance with regulations.

However, when translated into English, the sentence becomes “Sale of Chicken Murder,” which literally means “sale of chicken murder.” Not only is this translation linguistically incorrect, but it also results in a very negative connotation. The word “murder” in English refers to an act of killing that is usually used in a severe criminal or moral context, which is completely inappropriate for the commercial and procedural context of poultry sales. This mistranslation creates a very wrong impression and has the potential to damage the seller's reputation, as the word carries a harsh and inappropriate meaning. This shows how important accuracy in translation is, especially when it comes to sensitive issues such as food and the slaughter process. Translators must understand the nuances of words in both languages so that the message conveyed is accurate in meaning.

Figure 4

<https://www.e-arabization.com/blog/33/translation-fails-10-times-when-bad-translations-made-us-laugh-out-loud/>



Figure 4 shows a bilingual (Arabic-English) informative landscape displayed on a glass window in a fashion store. In Arabic, the landscape reads “تنزيلات” /*tanzilaat*/ which means “down” in this context, means discount or price reduction. This word is commonly used in retail to indicate that a store is having a sale or offering lower prices than usual. For Arabic-speaking shoppers, the term clearly indicates that the goods in the store are being discounted, thus attracting customers to buy the products on offer.

However, in translation to English, this phrase has been mistranslated to “download,” which refers to the act of downloading data from the internet, something that has nothing to do with the context of a discount or price reduction. Figure 4 illustrates a literal translation error, resulting in a loss of context and meaning. This translation is clearly inappropriate and may confuse English-speaking customers who see the information. They may think that the store is offering a digital download service, not a discount or sales promotion on a physical product. This translation error shows how an inappropriate word choice can drastically change meaning, even causing significant miscommunication in a business context.

Figure 5, the phrase مكسرات مشكلة /*mukassaraat musykilah*/ in Arabic is often used to refer to mixed nuts, such as almonds, peanuts, pistachios, and others. The correct English translation is “Mixed Nuts,” as the word مكسرات /*mukassaraat*/ means “nuts” and مشكلة /*musykilah*/ in this context means “mixture” or “assortment.”

The error occurs when مشكلة /*musykilah*/ is literally translated as “problem” or “issue,” resulting in the translation “Nuts Problem.” In fact, in the context of food, مشكلة /*musykilah*/ here does not mean

“problem” but rather “variety” or “mixture.” This literal translation causes confusion because it gives the wrong meaning, as if there is a “problem” with the nuts, when what is actually meant is a collection of different types of nuts. This translation error arises from a lack of understanding of the context and meaning of the word in different situations.

Figure 5

<https://www.e-arabization.com/blog/33/translation-fails-10-times-when-bad-translations-made-us-laugh-out-loud/>



Figure 6

<https://www.boredpanda.com/translation-fails/>



The phrase مفروم غنم /*mafrum ghanam*/ in Arabic literally means “lamb minced meat” or “lamb minced meat.” The error occurs when غنم /*ghanam*/ (which means “lamb”) is translated as “Lamp” instead of “Lamb”, resulting in the translation “Lamp Meat” which is obviously nonsensical and humorous. A “lamp” is a lighting object, not an animal, and the translation is humorous because it changes the context from food to an unrelated object. The meme in Figure 6 falls into the category of misinterpretation of nouns translation errors.

A similar error occurs in the phrase غنم بدون عظم /*ghanamun biduni 'adhimin*/ which means “boneless lamb” or “boneless lamb” If translated as “Boneless Lamp”, there is an error in the word “Lamp” which should be “Lamb”. The phrase falls into the category of misinterpretation of nouns.

This error occurs due to not carefully choosing the right word in the target language, and when there is a shift in meaning due to the replacement of a single letter, the translation can turn out to be very humorous and irrelevant to the original context.

Figure 7

<https://images.app.goo.gl/WUnsyASPTs9WQKDcA>



The phrase *من اذان المغرب* /min aadzan al-maghrib/ in Arabic refers to the “maghrib adhan” or call to prayer at maghrib (the prayer time at sunset). The correct translation into English is “from the Maghrib Adhan” or “from the Maghrib call to prayer.” The error occurs when the word *اذان* /aadzaan/ (which means “adhan” or “call”) is mistranslated into “ears”, as in Arabic, the word *اذان* /aadzaan/ can indeed mean “ears” in the plural, but in this context it is irrelevant. Furthermore, the word *المغرب* /al-maghrib/ which refers to “Maghrib time” or “Western region (Arab Maghreb)” is misunderstood to mean “Marocco” (Morocco, a country in North Africa). As a result, the translation “the ears of Marocco” came about, which obviously makes no sense.

Humor arises from this translation because the phrase “the ears of Morocco” evokes something very strange and irrelevant to the context of prayer times or the call to prayer (adhan). It seems as though it is referring to the “ears” of the country of Morocco, which is an absurd concept and creates confusion. This mistake highlights the importance of understanding the linguistic context before translating, especially when a word has multiple meanings or differs depending on the situation.

4 Discussion

These findings reveal that translation errors, besides causing misunderstandings and confusion for consumers reading them in a business context, can also generate humor and amusement. The most common errors occur with literal translations, where translating word by word without considering the sentence context often results in a meaning different from the intended one. This can have serious consequences in business communication, such as creating confusion about the products or services being offered. On the other hand, some of these mistakes become sources of humor because the resulting meanings tend to be absurd or unexpected, eliciting laughter from consumers who notice them. Despite the humorous effect, such errors can damage a business's reputation, reduce consumer trust in the company, and underscore the importance of accurate and contextual translation in cross-lingual communication.

Errors in Arabic-to-English translation within this informational landscape reflect a gap in cultural understanding and significant differences in linguistic structures between the two languages (A. Aldawood, 2019). Neglecting to consider social, cultural, and idiomatic contexts often lies at the root of translation errors, particularly when translations are performed literally without accounting for deeper or pragmatic meanings (Mahsa & Ardeshiri, 2014). Additionally, the translator's limited knowledge of the target language's nuances exacerbates the issue, resulting in translations that are not

only grammatically incorrect but also semantically inappropriate (Nunes Vieira & Alonso, 2020). In a commercial context, such errors can impact a company's image and the effectiveness of its intended message, leading to misunderstandings or even reducing the appeal of a product to consumers from diverse cultural backgrounds.

The findings of this study are supported by (García-Orozco et al., 2023), who assert that when translating specific terms, the original meaning is often overlooked, leading to inappropriate generalizations. This, in turn, causes the etymology of the terms to lose correlation with their lexical meanings and morphological relationships. Literal translation strategies, such as idiomatic and vice-versa approaches, often fail to capture the original meaning, highlighting the need to enhance linguistic and sociolinguistic competence in the target language, particularly when translating humorous literary texts (Khan & Rabab'ah, 2023). In contrast, (Tee et al., 2022b) argue that inconsistent translation quality may result from linguistic and technical constraints, insufficient knowledge of both the source and target cultures, and deviations from translation norms, leading to linguistic, pragmatic, cultural, and textual errors. (Youcef et al., 2024) further demonstrate that novice translators struggle with translating near-synonymous technical terms, grammatical issues, and stylistic problems at both the lexical and sentence levels. Meanwhile, this study identifies literal errors as a common issue, which often results in humor.

Although previous studies have highlighted translation errors and their impact on cross-linguistic communication, most have primarily focused on linguistic and technical aspects without delving deeply into the humorous dimension that may arise from such errors. Several studies have emphasized structural and pragmatic analyses without considering how the resulting humor can influence consumer perception and the credibility of a business. In this context, the findings of this study make a significant contribution by revealing that translation errors not only lead to misunderstandings but can also serve as a source of entertainment, with implications for brand image and customer trust. Consequently, this study enriches the existing theoretical framework by highlighting the relationship between translation errors, the humor they generate, and their impact on business and cultural communication.

To address translation errors that result in humor, concrete steps must be taken. First, translators should be equipped with more in-depth training on cultural differences and linguistic contexts between the source and target languages, enabling them to understand implied meanings rather than merely translating literally. Second, the use of automated translation technology should be accompanied by human oversight from experts proficient in both languages to minimize software-generated errors. Third, it is crucial to implement stricter revision and quality control processes, including involving native speakers of the target language to ensure translations are not only grammatically accurate but also culturally relevant and appropriate. These measures can help reduce the likelihood of errors that lead to inaccurate or humorous translations and enhance the quality of cross-linguistic communication.

5 Conclusion

This study underscores the importance of considering cultural context in the translation process, not only in terms of linguistic sensitivity but also in relation to the social nuances, values, and customs embedded in the target language. A deep understanding of these cultural elements enables translators to avoid literal errors that may result in misleading or irrelevant meanings within a given context. These findings imply the necessity of a more holistic translation approach, particularly in translation education and the development of machine translation technologies, to better capture contextual nuances accurately. Furthermore, in business and intercultural communication, culturally sensitive translation strategies are crucial for maintaining credibility and enhancing the effectiveness of cross-linguistic communication. Therefore, translators must develop an awareness of cultural elements that

influence language to produce translations that are not only grammatically accurate but also pragmatically and communicatively appropriate within a broader context.

Research on translation errors that generate humor makes a significant contribution to understanding how linguistic and cultural differences can result in unintended meanings, often of a comical nature. This study not only highlights various types of translation errors, such as literal translations or idiomatic mismatches, but also explores the humorous effects produced in cross-cultural communication, particularly in business and commercial contexts. Furthermore, it enriches insights into the importance of accuracy and cultural sensitivity in translation and opens a discussion on how humor arising from translation errors can be utilized as a tool for understanding cultural differences. Additionally, this study has the potential to encourage the development of improved translation strategies that not only avoid errors but also ensure that messages remain effective and well-targeted across diverse cultural contexts.

Disclosure Statement

The author(s) claim there is no conflict of interest.

Acknowledgement

We thank the Institute for Research and Community Service (LP2M) of Maulana Malik Ibrahim State Islamic University Malang for the support of research funds in 2024.

References

- A. Aldawood, S. (2019). Understanding the strategies used to translate colloquial Egyptian humour: A Study of Khaled Al Khamissi's Taxi (2006). *Arab World English Journal for Translation and Literary Studies*. <https://doi.org/10.24093/awejtls/vol3no3.15>
- Abu-Rayyash, H. (2024). AI meets comedy: Viewers' reactions to GPT-4 generated humor translation. *Ampersand*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.amper.2023.100162>
- Ahmad, A., Mustapha, N., Syed Abdullah, S. N., & Toklubok, P. (2023). Translation errors among bilingual Arabic language students: Collocations as an example. *Humanities and Management Sciences - Scientific Journal of King Faisal University*. <https://doi.org/10.37575/h/Ing/220028>
- Alanazi, M. S. (2024). Standard Arabic and colloquial Arabic in translation tasks: A new perspective. *Cogent Arts & Humanities*, 11(1), 2366572.
- Al-Ezzi, R., & Al-Qudah, I. (2024). English translation of verbal humour in Egyptian comedy films. *World Journal of English Language*. <https://doi.org/10.5430/wjel.v14n1p157>
- Al-Jarf, R. (2024). To translate or not to translate: The case of Arabic and foreign shop names in Saudi Arabia. *International Journal of Translation and Interpretation Studies*. <https://doi.org/10.32996/ijtis.2024.4.1.5>
- Alnusairat, S. A., & Jaganathan, P. (2022). Humour in translation from English into Arabic: Subtitles of the comedy sitcom friends. *Theory and Practice in Language Studies*. <https://doi.org/10.17507/tpls.1207.27>
- Araghi, S., Palangkaraya, A., & Webster, E. (2024). The impact of language translation quality on commerce: The example of patents. *Journal of International Business Policy*. <https://doi.org/10.1057/s42214-023-00157-0>



- Aufa, M., & Syarif, H. (2020). Error analysis on classroom language made by pre-service teachers of English education program UNP. *Journal of English Language Teaching*. <https://doi.org/10.24036/jelt.v9i1.108151>
- Azevedo, M. M., & Corder, S. P. (1983). Error analysis and interlanguage. *The Modern Language Journal*, 67(1), 85. <https://doi.org/10.2307/326720>
- Bak, H. (2023). Issues in the translation equivalence of basic emotion terms. *Ampersand*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.amper.2023.100128>
- Bin-Hariz, M. A. (2023). Problems of translating synonyms and homonyms in the holy Quran: A comparative study of two Quranic translations by Yusuf Ali and Ahmed Ali. *Electronic Journal of University of Aden for Humanity and Social Sciences*. <https://doi.org/10.47372/ejua-hs.2023.1.239>
- Chaisang, R., & Sriwantaneeyakul, S. (2023). Scaffoldings, translation errors, and language awareness by Thai University students. *Theory and Practice in Language Studies*. <https://doi.org/10.17507/tpls.1307.02>
- Chiaro, D. (2018). Humor and translation. In *The Routledge Handbook of Language and Humor*. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315731162-29>
- Conde, T. (2013). Translation versus language errors in translation evaluation. In *Assessment Issues in Language Translation and Interpretation*.
- Corder, S. P. (1975). Survey article: Error analysis, interlanguage and second language acquisition. In *Language Teaching*. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0261444800002822>
- Dewi, H. D. (2017). Translation and language errors in the Indonesian-English translation. *Journal of World Languages*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/21698252.2018.1443732>
- Diana Haokip, A. D. H. (2021). The challenges of language, culture, and translation in a global society. *Dera Natung Government College Research Journal*. <https://doi.org/10.56405/dngcrj.2021.06.01.03>
- El Alaoui, Y., & Jalid, K. (2023). The translatability of sports metaphors in political news. *International Journal of Linguistics, Literature and Translation*. <https://doi.org/10.32996/ijllt.2023.6.11.3>
- Elhadary, T. (2023). Linguistic and cultural differences between English and Arabic languages and their impact on the translation process. *International Journal of Language and Translation Research*, 3(2), 103-117.
- Ellis, R. (2009). Corrective feedback and teacher development. *L2 Journal*. <https://doi.org/10.5070/l2.v1i1.9054>
- Erika Sinambela, Roswani Siregar, Hotnida I., Simanjuntak, L. W., & Manurung, I. (2024). Students' difficulties in translating English metaphors into Indonesian: An Insight about Translation. *Linguistic and Philosophical Investigation*, 23(1), 466-479.
- García-Orozco, L., Duque-Colorado, J., Alarcón-Apablaza, J., Villanueva-Rickemberg, J., & Del Sol, M. (2023). Relevance of the term humor in terminologia anatomica. *International Journal of Morphology*. <https://doi.org/10.4067/S0717-95022023000200501>
- Graff, C. (2021). The impact of translation strategies on second language writing. *Fachsprache*. <https://doi.org/10.24989/fs.v43i3-4.2007>



- Kabakci, E., Ekiz, N. S., & Çelik, F. (2022). The first Qur'ān translation from Arabic to English: The Koran by George Sale. *Hitit Theology Journal*. <https://doi.org/10.14395/hid.1161799>
- Kayed, M. M. Al. (2024). The challenges facing translation students in translating sports idiomatic expressions from Arabic into English. *International Journal of Arabic-English Studies*. <https://doi.org/10.33806/ijaes.v24i1.568>
- Khan, R., & Rabab'ah, G. (2023). English-Arabic translation of humour: Challenges and strategies. . <https://doi.org/10.36394/jhss/20/3/12>
- Larson, M. L. (1998). Meaning-Based Translation: A guide to cross-language equivalence. Second Edition. In *University Press of America*.
- Lesmana, M. (2021). Humour and language errors in Arabic-English informative discourse. *International Journal of Society, Culture and Language*.
- Li, D., & Weng, Z. (2023). Review of the way of translation theory and practice (Revised Edition). *Asia-Pacific Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences*. <https://doi.org/10.53789/j.1653-0465.2023.0303.006>
- Mahsa, Z., & Ardeshiri, M. (2014). Students' causes of errors in translating pragmatic senses. *International Journal of English and Education*.
- Muassomah, M. (2024). *Language of COVID-19: Language absorption in the Pandemic Vocabulary from English to Arabic*. 24(1).
- Nasser, N. S. (2023). The impact of translation on the communication of the Arabic language with other languages. *International Journal of Professional Studies*. <https://doi.org/10.37648/ijps.v16i01.002>
- Nunes Vieira, L., & Alonso, E. (2020). Translating perceptions and managing expectations: an analysis of management and production perspectives on machine translation. *Perspectives: Studies in Translation Theory and Practice*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/0907676X.2019.1646776>
- Piotrowski, S., & Sadowska-Dobrowolska, K. (2023). Language and culture in the translation of Specialist texts. *Neofilolog*. <https://doi.org/10.14746/n.2023.60.1.10>
- Plyth, P. S. (2020). Translation affects literary and cultural systems: how to observe the features of translation? *Applied Translation*. <https://doi.org/10.51708/apprans.v14n1.1141>
- Praet, S., & Verhelst, B. (2020). Teaching translation theory and practice. *Journal of Classics Teaching*. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S2058631020000392>
- Saifudin, A. (2018). Potensi kewirausahaan pembelajaran penerjemahan dan model pembelajaran penerjemahan berbasis kewirausahaan. *LITE: Jurnal Bahasa, Sastra, dan Budaya*, 14(1), 25–36. <http://publikasi.dinus.ac.id/index.php/lite/article/view/1976/1316>
- Schachter, J. (1974). An error in error analysis. *Language Learning*, 24(2), 205–214. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1467-1770.1974.tb00502.x>
- Tee, Y. H., Amini, M., Siau, C. S., & Amirdabbaghian, A. (2022). English to Chinese fansub translation of humour in The Marvellous Mrs. Maisel. *Texto Livre*. <https://doi.org/10.35699/1983-3652.2022.37677>
- Válcea, C. S. (2020). First language transfer in second language acquisition as a cause for error-making in translations. *Diacronia*. <https://doi.org/10.17684/i11a161en>
- Verity, D. P., & Larson, M. L. (1986). Meaning-Based Translation: A Guide to Cross-Language Equivalence. *The Modern Language Journal*. <https://doi.org/10.2307/328112>



- Ward, G., & Birner, B. J. (2008). Discourse and information structure. In *The Handbook of Discourse Analysis*. <https://doi.org/10.1002/9780470753460.ch7>
- Weissbort, D., & Eysteinsson, A. (2023). Translation-Theory and practice: A historical reader. In *Translation-Theory and Practice: A Historical Reader*.
- Widya Dara Anindya, & Aqiana Eka Yonatri. (2022). Types of translation errors from the Indonesia language into English in pharmacy journal articles. *RETORIKA: Jurnal Ilmu Bahasa*. <https://doi.org/10.55637/jr.8.2.5416.206-213>
- Xia, C., Amini, M., & Lee, K. F. (2023). Humor translation: A case study on the loss of humorous loads in Spongebob squarepants. *Cadernos de Traducaao*. <https://doi.org/10.5007/2175-7968.2023.e89705>
- Youcef, J., Al Salem, M. N., & Jarrah, M. (2024a). Errors in Arabic-English translation of documents from the department of lands and survey in Jordan. *International Journal for the Semiotics of Law*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11196-023-10058-3>
- Youcef, J., Al Salem, M. N., & Jarrah, M. (2024b). Errors in Arabic-English Translation of Documents from the Department of Lands and Survey in Jordan. *International Journal for the Semiotics of Law*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11196-023-10058-3>
- Zabalbeascoa, P. (2005). Humor and translation - An interdiscipline. *Humor*. <https://doi.org/10.1515/humr.2005.18.2.185>